

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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"Moreover, you can't ever tell results, nor can you afford to make your plans in this high sort of work with the slightest reference to probable results. That's the bigness and the glory of it. Any ordinary man can, on any ordinary day, go and do a task, the favorable results of which may be foreseen. THAT'S easy. The big thing is to go confidently to work on a task, the results of which nobody can possibly foresee—a task so vague and improbable of definite results that small men hesitate. It is in this spirit that very many of the biggest things in history have been done."—*Life and Letters* of WALTER H. PAGE, Vol. I, pages 287-288.

TO MEMBERS:

THE annual meeting of the Child Welfare League of America was held in Washington, D. C., May 18, 1923. Among the items of business the following votes may be of interest:

It was voted that the Executive Committee be authorized to make rules at an early date for admitting institutions to membership, and that it be empowered to act upon the matter as it deems best.

A report of the Finance Committee, of which J. Prentice Murphy is Chairman, was read and adopted. This report is being printed and will be sent to all members.

It was voted to amend the constitution by adding Section 3, Article IV, which reads as follows: "That the six members of the Executive Committee whose terms expired at the annual meeting in 1923 and subsequent years be not eligible to re-election until the expiration of one year."

The following officers and members of the Executive Committee were elected:

Officers:

President, Henry W. Thurston, New York School of Social Work.

Vice-President, Wilfred S. Reynolds, Council of Social Agencies, Chicago.

Secretary, Miss Ruth Berolzheimer, Jewish Home Finding Society, Chicago.

Treasurer, Alfred F. Whitman, Children's Aid Association, Boston.

For Members of the Executive Committee until October, 1926:

Miss Mary E. Boretz, Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, New York.

Mrs. Clarence A. Johnson, Commissioner, State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, Raleigh, N. C.

Mr. Cheney C. Jones, Superintendent, New England Home for Little Wanderers, Boston.

Mr. R. B. Ralls, Nebraska Children's Home Society, Omaha, Nebr.

Miss Georgia G. Ralph, Judge Baker Foundation, Boston, Mass.

Mr. C. V. Williams, Superintendent, Children's Home and Aid Society, Chicago, Ill.

To fill the unexpired term of Miss Hallett, Miss Julia George, President of the San Francisco Juvenile Protective Association.

The Director's report and Treasurer's report were adopted and will be printed and distributed to all the members.

STEREOPTICON SLIDES AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

J. Prentice Murphy, of the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia has provided the League with a set of 65 stereopticon slides with the understanding that they be placed at the service of the League's members. These slides picture the conditions out of which children are received by a modern children's agency, the medical work done by the doctors and nurses, good home-finding, placement, and follow-up. They are particularly fine in showing the good grade of homes, as far as physical comforts go, that become available to the placed-out child. The League is glad to place these slides at the service of any of our members, expecting no fee except the cost of transportation. Is there some other friend of the League who would like to furnish a small stereopticon, to be placed at the service of agencies that do not have them? With the electric-light equipment that is now available everywhere it is possible for the speaker to talk to a small or large group while he is operating his own instrument.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHILD WELFARE

An American Section of this Association was organized at the time of the National Conference of Social Work in Washington last month. The necessary number of members, fifty, was obtained, a constitution was adopted, Miss Grace Abbott was chosen President of the Section, Mrs. Bayard Henry (Philadelphia), Vice-President, and C. C. Carstens, Secretary-Treasurer. According to the constitution all members of the Inter-

national Association, whose headquarters is in Brussels, become members of the American Section by expressing a desire to be so registered.

There must be other individuals or associations that would like to become members of the International Association. With the present low exchange rate of the franc the membership fee of 50 francs is reduced to about \$3.00. The Secretary-Treasurer of the American Section will be glad to receive applications for membership in the International Association, accompanied by checks, and will forward them to the Brussels office, by that means registering American members as Charter Members in the American Section. The International Association publishes a monthly International Record of Child Welfare work in English, which is sent to all members.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS FOR CHILDREN OF AN INSTITUTION

In the June number of *The Family*, Phoebe C. Allnutt, School Director, Carson College for Orphan Girls, Philadelphia, has an article entitled "Educational Adventures in an Institution," which we recommend to the attention of the staffs of children's institutions. We quote a few paragraphs:

"We are learning to depend more and more upon certain resources of the institution and of the neighborhood for the educational experiences of our children. Rather than try to create within the school itself situations that are intended to develop certain powers and qualities in the children, we find it better to send the children out to deal with real situations that already exist. In this way, they not only learn the special skills that are called for in that kind of work, but also develop a resourcefulness and a readiness to meet emergencies that would not be brought out under more artificial conditions.

"The public health nurse of this district lives at the College, and she has trained some of the fifteen- and sixteen-year-old girls in home nursing. When some one in the College falls ill, the nurse calls on the School Director for a 'nursing girl.' The girl is chosen who can best be spared at the time from her school classes and stays on the case for the rest of that day and perhaps for a day or two longer. If the case is a prolonged one, help must be had from outside and the girl returns to school. Once in a while the nurse takes a nursing girl with her on her 'rounds' and gives her a new baby to bathe.

"In summer we are granted the use of the Flourtown public school building, and this enables us, with very little additional cost, to include seventy-five to a hundred boys and girls of the neighborhood in our summer school enrolment. This gives our children a wholesome contact with village boys and girls and gives these outside people, at a nominal cost, the advantages of our swimming, weaving, pottery and printing classes. For the girls over fourteen, we try to provide 'work experiences' either in the College or outside. Last summer

two girls worked as assistants to the swimming teacher—one had charge of the playground equipment, two were 'office girls' and four worked in the laundry. Seven went in to Philadelphia every day, four to offices and three to a children's hospital. Two worked in the Ambler Horticultural School and two were apprentices in a school of weaving in New York."

TEAM WORK IN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS BY INSTITUTIONS AND CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES

The primary purpose of the Children's Bureau of Cleveland has been the investigation of all admissions of children to twenty-five institutions for dependent children of that city, and at the present time it is serving institutions in Cleveland, regardless of whether or not they are members of the Welfare Federation.

The following paragraph expresses a fine line of teamwork:

"Secondly, the Bureau has worked out policies by which the family of the placed child is being carefully supervised and planned for so that as the child is prepared by institutional training and discipline, the family if possible is rebuilt for his return. If, after a period of institutional care, the home cannot be rebuilt and the parents or relatives cannot provide for them, the children are being returned to normal family life in the free, adoptive or boarding homes of the Humane Society. During the past year a special effort has been made to fix the financial responsibility of parents for their children after placement. With the high cost of institutional care, parents should not be permitted to transfer their primary and legal obligations to the Community Fund. The parent's responsibility for his child's care is his primary obligation by law and comes before other debts of any kind. For the child's sake and his own, as well as for the community, every parent should be held to his obligation by court action if necessary. In order to determine his fair ability to pay his exact earnings, his other obligations as well as an actual budget of expenses must be secured. We feel every parent should pay something no matter how small and should strictly, with the knowledge of all the facts, be held to as large a percentage of the actual cost of care as his circumstances permit. At the present time the Children's Bureau has under supervision in the various institutions over nine hundred children, and in addition is interested in approximately one thousand children under supervision in their own home, either having been returned home under supervision, or in families of placed children."

DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL AMUSEMENTS

The list beginning with Will H. Hays, representing the Movie Industry, must have another member added to it. Thomas J. Johnson, a Chicago attorney, has been elected absolute Director of the Commercial Amusements that are represented in the Showmen's League of America. Resolutions have been adopted by them

pledging themselves not to allow the following objectionable features in their shows or upon their grounds, and they will join with all clubs and associations in the prosecution of the owners and employees who will permit them, and will also aid in driving out any of these features.

Forty-nine Camps, all Hoochie-Coochie shows, Hawaiian Village shows; with dancers; Fairy in the Well, all immoral, indecent, and suggestive shows, all shows exclusively for men, all shows with final blowoff, all snake-eating shows, all "glomming" shows, all gypsies being in, around, or operating, associating, or being connected with any form of entertainment or amusement, either indoor or outdoor; all games where the operator, attendant or any person may, by mechanical device or by pinching, squeezing, trick, brake, or otherwise, control the speed or determine the outcome; all games where money is given as prizes, all games where prizes may be exchanged for money, selling or giving away or disposing of any liquor to the public, carrying or selling or giving away or disposing of any dope, any person or employee associating with any one who is known as a dope user, any indecent, immoral, or disreputable employee carrying, selling, disposing, giving away, or exhibiting any indecent card, picture, poster or literature; using any unsafe or improperly constructed ride or apparatus.

The carnival and the so-called "cattle shows" should also feel the good effects of this policy.

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

There are five or more different Provincial Cabinet Ministers in Canada who direct matters belonging to child welfare. In some Provinces the superintendents of the departments have more or less special relation to the children who are disabled or defective in mind or body, but there, as elsewhere, the work of prevention and adequately caring for defective children is only beginning. Among the cities which have special classes for backward or subnormal children are Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia, Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta, Regina in Saskatchewan, Winnipeg in Manitoba, Toronto, Ottawa, and four smaller cities in Ontario, Montreal in Quebec, and Halifax in Nova Scotia.

According to the mortality records of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the conditions among the life of colored children appear to have continuously improved during the years 1911-1922. The mortality rate in 1911 for negro children under fifteen was 10.1 per thousand. In 1922 it had been reduced to 5.3 per thousand.

By an amendment to the Board of Children's Guardians law of Indiana the appointment of such Boards was made mandatory. Five counties in the State had never appointed Boards under the law of 1901. Under the new law appointments are to be made by the court having juvenile jurisdiction.

The British and Canadian Governments reached an agreement on immigration questions. They will jointly guarantee a free grant to five thousand children between the ages of eight and fourteen sent to Canada during the present financial year.

A Bill to amend the Domestic Relations Law in regard to adoption was passed by the New York Legislature. This bill provides, among other things, a six months' probationary residence of the child with the foster parents before adoption.

Florida has passed a law providing for a Children's Code Commission, to report on the new laws needed at the next session of the Legislature.

The Maternity and Infancy Act passed by the Federal Congress has now been accepted by forty-one States, the last of which is New York. Meanwhile the United States Supreme Court has thrown the cases brought to test its constitutionality out of the backdoor.

Governor Smith of New York has signed a law providing for the repeal of various provisions legalizing the binding out of children under the Indenture System, and another extending power to the Board of Child Welfare to grant allowances to mothers whose husbands are permanently incapacitated and in some hospital or institution.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

The enclosures for this month are the following:

1. The April number of the St. Louis Children's Aid Society News.
2. A leaflet published by the Cleveland Children's Bureau.
3. The anniversary number of the Cleveland Humane Society Bulletin.
4. Reprint of Dr. Jessie Taft's article, "The Placing of Children who are Difficult to Adjust."

LIBRARY LIST NUMBER 21

BOOKS

1. Drucker, Saul, and Hexter, Maurice. *Children Astray*. 1923.

The introduction of this volume was written by Dr. Richard Cabot. It is a study of twenty-four cases, written in a more popular style than is found in the average case-book.

2. Gesell, Arnold. *The Pre-School Child*. 1923.

Dr. Gesell is Director of Yale Psycho-Clinic and Professor of Child Hygiene of Yale University. He discusses not only the educational phases of the child's life in the pre-school period, but also deals with such subjects as the home in reference to the child, pre-parental education, and suitable provisions for young children with various handicaps. The appendices also contain a large amount of valuable information on the broader aspects of the subject.

3. Johnstone, Edward Ransom. *Dear Robinson*. 1923.

This book consists of a series of letters on getting along with folks. Mr. Johnstone is the Director of the Training School at Vineland, N. J. He takes up in a very interesting way some of the most fundamental questions in institution management. Although Mr. Johnstone's experience has been largely with feeble-minded children, the valuable suggestions he makes have an application far beyond the limits of the boundaries of a feeble-minded school.

4. Kerby, William J. *The Social Mission of Charity*. 1921.

Dr. Kerby is Professor of Sociology in the Catholic University and Trinity College, Washington, D. C., and was for ten years Secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities. His book is a study of the points of view in Catholic charities. It is commended to members of the League for a broad and interesting presentation of the spiritual side of social work. Incidentally, he gives us the Catholic viewpoint of charity.

5. Loeb, Sophie Irene. *Everyman's Child*. 1920.

Miss Loeb is the President of the Child Welfare Board of New York City, which has in its charge the administration, the support and care of Mothers' Aid work for the city of New York.

6. Lucas, Dr. William Palmer. *The Health of the Runabout Child*. 1923.

The sub-title is "The Journey from His Mother's Lap to the School Gate." It is a charmingly written book and of great value. Dr. Lucas in his Foreword

says: "I do not expect any busy parents to read all of this book at once, or perhaps ever. So if you can only read one chapter, I'd recommend Chapter II. If you can take time to read two, don't miss Chapters IV and IX. If you are on a vacation and forgot to bring a novel, you might enjoy III and X. If you are not really interested in reading any of it, be sure to read the last chapter and skip the first. You will be more cheerful." It is certainly a novel bit of advice, and his dedication is equally clever.

PAMPHLETS

1. *The Health Speaker's Handbook*. By Iago Galdston, M.D.

This manual on health education from the lecture platform is published by the New York Tuberculosis Association, but the information contained in it is of very great value for students.

2. *Manitoba Child Welfare Law of April, 1922*.

By it was established in Manitoba a Department of Public Welfare, in which a Director of Child Welfare may be appointed.

3. *Public Aid to Children in their Own Homes*. By Lulu L. Eckman.

This is a publication of the Children's Bureau of the United States Dept. of Labor, and is entitled Legal Chart Number Three. It contains a tabular summary of the State laws dealing with Widows' Pensions and Mothers' Aid in effect December 1, 1922.

4. *Standards and Problems Connected With Issuance of Employment Certificates*.

This is publication No. 116 of the Children's Bureau. It contains the proceedings of the Conference held under the auspices of the Children's Bureau and National Educational Association at Boston, July 5th and 6th, 1922.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO.—The Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society address has been changed to 308 No. Michigan Blvd.

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE.—Henry Watson Children's Aid Society and Maryland Children's Aid Society address has been changed to Snow Building.

MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON.—The Church Home Society, etc., address has been changed to 24 Mt. Vernon St.

OHIO, CLEVELAND.—The Cleveland Humane Society address has been changed to 106 City Hall.

NEW YORK, WHITE PLAINS.—Westchester County Children's Association. Mrs. Edith Mitchell, Executive Secretary to succeed Miss Eda E. Affeld, resigned.

C. C. CARSTENS, *Director*.